GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:6
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
RISE IN PRICES
Bhagora Shri Mahavir;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of essential commodities including foodgrains pulses, vegetables, milk and edible oils continue to rise alarmingly despite the efforts of the Government to check the price rise;

(b) if so, the factors attributed thereto indicating the prevailing price and percentage increase recorded in the price of these commodities in various parts of the country during each of the last three months;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give more powers to Forward Market Commission to control prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the other steps being taken to check black-marketing and control prices of these commodities?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 FOR 26/02/2007 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES

(a) & (b): Annual Inflation as measured in terms of percentage variation in Wholesale Price Index as on 10.2.07 stood at 6.63% as compared to 3.81% during the corresponding week in the previous year. However, the inflation rate as on 10.2.07 is lower by 0.1% as compared to that in the previous week. The retail prices of wheat, gram dal and potato have generally shown a steady to declining trend during the last three months. Prices of tur dal have increased owing to lower estimated production of tur at 2.64 million tonnes during the year 2006-07 as against 2.74 million tonnes in 2005-06 and increasing demand. Prices of groundnut oil have indicated rise at selected centres owing to lower estimated production of groundnut at 44.11 lakh tonnes during the year 2006-07 as compared to 79.93 lakh tonnes in 2005-06. Prices of milk have shown an increase largely due to higher exports of Skimmed Milk Powder during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Prices of onion have shown an uptrend owing to higher exports in the current year vis-Ã -vis the previous year. A Statement showing the retail prices of rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils, milk, potato and onion as on 21.2.07 along with the percentage change over the last three months is given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): Forward Markets Commission (FMC) is the regulator for commodity futures market under the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952. The main function of FMC is to regulate trading in commodity futures Exchanges for ensuring orderly functioning of these Exchanges and transparency in futures trading. FMC does not control prices. A Bill to amend the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.3.2006. The Bill has since been examined by the Parliamentary Standing Committee. The Bill, inter alia, seeks to strengthen and restructure the Forward Markets Commission (FMC) in order to make it an autonomous and a more effective Regulator of the commodity futures market. The Bill proposes to confer upon FMC various additional powers such as power to prohibit fraudulent and unfair practices relating to commodity futures market, to prohibit insider trading and to investigate the affairs of any intermediary or person associated with the commodity market. FMC will be conferred these powers after the Bill is passed by the Parliament.

(e): The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 empowers the Central Government or a State Government to detain persons whose activities are found to be prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies of commodities essential to the community. As per reports received from the State Governments, 161 persons were ordered for detention under the Act during the period from 1.1.2006 to 31.12.2006.

Keeping in view the prevailing price situation, the Central Government had issued a Central Order dated 29.08.2006 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable the State Governments to invoke Stock Limits in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of 6 months. By virtue of this Order, the State Governments /UT Administrations have been empowered to take effective action to bring out the hoarded stock of these items to ensure their availability to the common people at reasonable prices. Government has also decided to extend the validity of the Central Order by another six months.

Government have also taken various other measures to check the rise in prices. These measures include import of wheat on

Government account, permitting import of wheat, pulses and maize at zero duty, reduction in import duty on edible oils and banning export of pulses (except dollar chana), skimmed milk powder and wheat.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 6 FOR 26/02/2007 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES
Annexure -

Daily retail prices of selected essential commodities at various centres in the country

(Rs per kg)

Rice

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	% Variation over 2 Months	% Variation over 3 Months
DELHI	15.00	15.00	14.50	14.50	0.0	3.4	3.4
LUCKNOW	10.80	10.80	10.80	10.80	0.0	0.0	0.0
SHIMLA	16.00	17.00	17.00	16.00	-5.9	-5.9	0.0
AHMEDABAD	12.00	14.00	13.00	12.00	-14.3	-7.7	0.0
BHOPAL	11.50	11.00	11.50	11.00	4.5	0.0	4.5
JAIPUR	13.00	13.00	12.00	12.00	0.0	8.3	8.3
MUMBAI	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
AGARTALA	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
AIZWAL	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BHUBANESHWAR	10.50	9.50	9.50	9.50	10.5	10.5	10.5
GUWAHATI	13.00	12.00	12.50	12.50	8.3	4.0	4.0
KOLKATA	11.00	11.00	11.00	12.00	0.0	0.0	-8.3
PATNA	10.00	11.00	11.00	10.00	-9.1	-9.1	0.0
SHILLONG	12.50	12.00	12.00	12.00	4.2	4.2	4.2
BANGALORE	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHENNAI	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
HYDERABAD	9.00	9.00	10.00	10.00	0.0	-10.0	-10.0
TRIVANDRUM	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	0.0	0.0	0.0

Wheat

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	% Variation over 2 Months	% Variation over 3 Months
DELHI	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
LUCKNOW	12.00	13.00	12.00	12.50	-7.7	0.0	-4.0
SHIMLA	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
AHMEDABAD	12.00	13.00	13.00	11.00	-7.7	-7.7	9.1
BHOPAL	11.00	11.00	11.00	10.50	0.0	0.0	4.8
JAIPUR	11.00	11.50	12.00	12.00	-4.3	-8.3	-8.3
MUMBAI	15.25	16.50	16.25	15.50	-7.6	-6.2	-1.6
AGARTALA	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
AIZWAL	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
BHUBANESHWAR	15.00	15.00	14.00	14.50	0.0	7.1	3.4
GUWAHATI	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
KOLKATA	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
PATNA	13.00	11.00	11.00	11.50	18.2	18.2	13.0
SHILLONG	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
BANGALORE	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHENNAI	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
HYDERABAD	12.00	12.00	11.00	11.00	0.0	9.1	9.1
TRIVANDRUM	19.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	5.6	5.6	5.6

Gram Dal

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	over 2 Months	over 3 Months
DELHI	36.00	36.00	39.00	41.00	0.0	-7.7	-12.2
LUCKNOW	40.00	41.00	42.00	43.00	-2.4	-4.8	-7.0
SHIMLA	35.50	36.00	43.00	43.00	-1.4	-17.4	-17.4
AHMEDABAD	34.50	38.00	40.00	42.00	-9.2	-13.8	-17.9
BHOPAL	31.00	32.00	36.00	36.00	-3.1	-13.9	-13.9
JAIPUR	30.00	34.00	38.00	38.00	-11.8	-21.1	-21.1
MUMBAI	37.00	40.00	44.00	45.00	-7.5	-15.9	-17.8
AGARTALA	37.00	39.00	40.00	40.00	-5.1	-7.5	-7.5
AIZWAL	NR	NR	NR	NR	-	-	-
BHUBANESHWAR	34.00	36.00	40.00	39.00	-5.6	-15.0	-12.8
GUWAHATI	36.00	38.00	36.00	36.00	-5.3	0.0	0.0
KOLKATA	35.00	38.00	42.00	40.00	-7.9	-16.7	-12.5
PATNA	34.00	37.00	37.00	35.00	-8.1	-8.1	-2.9
SHILLONG	36.00	38.00	40.00	40.00	-5.3	-10.0	-10.0
BANGALORE	32.00	36.00	40.00	44.00	-11.1	-20.0	-27.3
CHENNAI	36.00	38.00	40.00	41.00	-5.3	-10.0	-12.2
HYDERABAD	32.00	33.00	36.00	38.00	-3.0	-11.1	-15.8
TRIVANDRUM	50.00	52.00	48.00	52.00	-3.8	4.2	-3.8

Tur Dal

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	over 2 Months	over 3 Months
DELHI	36.00	34.00	33.00	34.00	5.9	9.1	5.9
LUCKNOW	35.00	32.00	33.00	33.00	9.4	6.1	6.1
SHIMLA	36.50	35.50	37.00	35.50	2.8	-1.4	2.8
AHMEDABAD	32.00	32.00	30.00	32.00	0.0	6.7	0.0
BHOPAL	29.00	27.00	26.00	26.00	7.4	11.5	11.5
JAIPUR	34.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	13.3	13.3	13.3
MUMBAI	36.00	35.00	35.00	34.00	2.9	2.9	5.9
AGARTALA	34.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	13.3	13.3	6.3
AIZWAL	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BHUBANESHWAR	35.00	32.00	30.00	32.00	9.4	16.7	9.4
GUWAHATI	32.00	31.00	31.00	31.00	3.2	3.2	3.2
KOLKATA	32.00	30.00	32.00	30.00	6.7	0.0	6.7
PATNA	33.00	29.00	29.00	28.00	13.8	13.8	17.9
SHILLONG	34.00	30.00	30.00	32.00	13.3	13.3	6.3
BANGALORE	40.00	37.00	35.00	36.00	8.1	14.3	11.1
CHENNAI	40.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	14.3	14.3	14.3
HYDERABAD	30.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	15.4	15.4	15.4
TRIVANDRUM	35.00	35.00	40.00	37.00	0.0	-12.5	-5.4

Source: State Food & Civil Supplies Departments.

NR = Not Reported
NT = Not Traded

Groundnut Oil

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	over 2 Months	over 3 Months
DELHI	95.00	94.0	92.0	89.00	1.1	3.3	6.7
LUCKNOW	81.00	81.0	81.0	81.00	0.0	0.0	0.0

SHIMLA	76.00	76.0	78.0	78.00	0.0	-2.6	-2.6
AHMEDABAD	68.00	62.0	60.0	60.00	9.7	13.3	13.3
BHOPAL	65.00	65.0	65.0	65.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
JAIPUR	68.00	64.0	62.5	62.50	6.3	8.8	8.8
MUMBAI	80.00	74.0	74.0	74.00	8.1	8.1	8.1
AGARTALA	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
AIZWAL	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
BHUBANESHWAR	NR	NR	NR	NR	-	-	-
GUWAHATI	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
KOLKATA	80.00	80.0	80.0	80.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
PATNA	NR	80.0	80.0	80.00	-	-	-
SHILLONG	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
BANGALORE	68.00	66.0	64.0	62.00	3.0	6.3	9.7
CHENNAI	70.00	65.0	61.0	59.00	7.7	14.8	18.6
HYDERABAD	68.00	64.0	60.0	58.00	6.3	13.3	17.2
TRIVANDRUM	75.00	70.0	71.0	67.00	7.1	5.6	11.9

Mustard Oil

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	over 2 Months	over 3 Months
DELHI	56.00	57.00	58.00	57.00	-1.8	-3.4	-1.8
LUCKNOW	51.00	53.00	54.00	53.00	-3.8	-5.6	-3.8
SHIMLA	64.00	67.00	65.00	65.00	-4.5	-1.5	-1.5
AHMEDABAD	49.00	52.00	50.00	45.00	-5.8	-2.0	8.9
BHOPAL	48.00	48.00	48.00	48.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
JAIPUR	50.00	55.00	53.00	53.00	-9.1	-5.7	-5.7
MUMBAI	66.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	-12.0	-12.0	-12.0
AGARTALA	53.00	53.00	52.00	58.00	0.0	1.9	-8.6
AIZWAL	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BHUBANESHWAR	56.00	56.00	58.00	57.00	0.0	-3.4	-1.8
GUWAHATI	52.00	50.00	48.00	48.00	4.0	8.3	8.3
KOLKATA	52.00	55.00	54.00	53.00	-5.5	-3.7	-1.9
PATNA	54.00	55.00	55.00	50.00	-1.8	-1.8	8.0
SHILLONG	55.00	57.00	57.00	57.00	-3.5	-3.5	-3.5
BANGALORE	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
CHENNAI	NT	NT	NT	NT	-	-	-
HYDERABAD	65.00	65.00	63.00	63.00	0.0	3.2	3.2
TRIVANDRUM	80.00	80.00	81.00	81.00	0.0	-1.2	-1.2

Vanaspati

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	over 2 Months	over 3 Months
DELHI	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
LUCKNOW	50.00	50.00	52.00	52.00	0.0	-3.8	-3.8
SHIMLA	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
AHMEDABAD	50.00	51.00	50.00	52.00	-2.0	0.0	-3.8
BHOPAL	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
JAIPUR	55.00	54.00	46.00	46.00	1.9	19.6	19.6
MUMBAI	64.00	63.00	58.00	58.00	1.6	10.3	10.3
AGARTALA	56.00	56.00	56.00	58.00	0.0	0.0	-3.4
AIZWAL	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BHUBANESHWAR	50.00	50.00	48.00	50.00	0.0	4.2	0.0
GUWAHATI	53.00	49.00	49.00	49.00	8.2	8.2	8.2
KOLKATA	50.00	51.00	52.00	50.00	-2.0	-3.8	0.0
PATNA	52.00	55.00	55.00	52.00	-5.5	-5.5	0.0
SHILLONG	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BANGALORE	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
CHENNAI	57.00	57.00	56.00	56.00	0.0	1.8	1.8
HYDERABAD	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRIVANDRUM	55.00	53.00	55.00	52.00	3.8	0.0	5.8

Milk@

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	over 2 Months	over 3 Months
DELHI	18.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	5.9	5.9	5.9
LUCKNOW	21.00	21.00	21.00	20.00	0.0	0.0	5.0
SHIMLA	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
AHMEDABAD	21.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	5.0	5.0	5.0
BHOPAL	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
JAIPUR	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
MUMBAI	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
AGARTALA	NR	NR	NR	NR	-	-	-
AIZWAL	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BHUBANESHWAR	18.00	16.00	16.00	15.00	12.5	12.5	20.0
GUWAHATI	18.00	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
KOLKATA	26.00	26.00	27.00	27.00	0.0	-3.7	-3.7
PATNA	15.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	25.0	25.0	25.0
SHILLONG	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BANGALORE	14.00	14.00	13.00	13.00	0.0	7.7	7.7
CHENNAI	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
HYDERABAD	18.00	16.00	16.00	18.00	12.5	12.5	0.0
TRIVANDRUM	16.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	6.7	6.7	6.7

Source: State Food & Civil Supplies Departments.

NR = Not Reported
NT = Not Traded
@ = Rs per litre

Potato

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	over 2 Months	over 3 Months
DELHI	7.00	6.50	7.00	11.00	7.7	0.0	-36.4
LUCKNOW	6.00	5.00	6.00	10.00	20.0	0.0	-40.0
SHIMLA	8.00	7.00	8.00	18.00	14.3	0.0	-55.6
AHMEDABAD	8.00	10.00	10.00	14.00	-20.0	-20.0	-42.9
BHOPAL	5.00	6.00	8.00	8.00	-16.7	-37.5	-37.5
JAIPUR	4.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	-20.0	-60.0	-60.0
MUMBAI	11.00	9.00	13.00	15.00	22.2	-15.4	-26.7
AGARTALA	8.00	5.00	10.00	12.00	60.0	-20.0	-33.3
AIZWAL	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BHUBANESHWAR	6.00	6.00	6.50	8.00	0.0	-7.7	-25.0
GUWAHATI	6.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	-25.0	-40.0	-40.0
KOLKATA	5.00	5.00	8.00	8.00	0.0	-37.5	-37.5
PATNA	6.00	12.00	12.00	9.00	-50.0	-50.0	-33.3
SHILLONG	6.00	6.00	9.00	9.00	0.0	-33.3	-33.3
BANGALORE	10.00	12.00	14.00	12.00	-16.7	-28.6	-16.7
CHENNAI	9.00	9.00	11.00	13.00	0.0	-18.2	-30.8
HYDERABAD	14.00	14.00	14.00	13.00	0.0	0.0	7.7
TRIVANDRUM	13.00	14.00	14.50	17.00	-7.1	-10.3	-23.5

Onion

Centre	Current Price 21.2.07	1 Month Back 22.1.07	2 Mnths Back 21.12.06	3 Months Back 21.11.06	% Variation over 1 Month	over 2 Months	over 3 Months
DELHI	18.00	16.00	11.00	9.00	12.5	63.6	100.0
LUCKNOW	18.00	14.00	8.00	7.00	28.6	125.0	157.1
SHIMLA	20.00	14.00	12.00	10.00	42.9	66.7	100.0
AHMEDABAD	10.00	8.00	7.00	8.00	25.0	42.9	25.0
BHOPAL	10.00	10.00	4.00	4.00	0.0	150.0	150.0
JAIPUR	14.00	14.00	6.00	6.00	0.0	133.3	133.3

MUMBAI	16.00	14.50	11.00	12.00	10.3	45.5	33.3
AGARTALA	20.00	16.00	14.00	12.00	25.0	42.9	66.7
AIZWAL	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
BHUBANESHWAR	16.00	13.00	10.00	8.00	23.1	60.0	100.0
GUWAHATI	18.00	10.00	8.00	8.00	80.0	125.0	125.0
KOLKATA	16.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	60.0	60.0	60.0
PATNA	15.00	8.00	8.00	9.00	87.5	87.5	66.7
SHILLONG	17.00	15.00	9.00	9.00	13.3	88.9	88.9
BANGALORE	17.00	15.00	12.00	9.00	13.3	41.7	88.9
CHENNAI	14.00	14.00	10.00	7.00	0.0	40.0	100.0
HYDERABAD	11.00	9.00	5.50	6.00	22.2	100.0	83.3
TRIVANDRUM	18.50	18.00	14.50	12.00	2.8	27.6	54.2

Source : State Food & Civil Supplies Departments.